

*This book is dedicated to those tea planters of North East India who had the hardest job of all. Those who, by no choice of theirs, had to stay behind on their estates, contend in anxious times with all the problems created by a rapidly advancing Japanese army when the history of Malaya was fresh in everyone's mind, do their normal duties with a quarter of their normal staff, and at the same time gave with both hands all their available resources to support the Manipur Road Project.*